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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

8 United States of America,

9 Plaintiff,

10 vs.

11 Nicole Shermaine Martinez,

12 Defendant.

 } No. CR 23-081-TUC-CKJ (MAA)

ORDER

13 Pending before the Court are the government's Motion in Limine for Ruling on
14 Objections from Video Deposition and Government's Additional Proposed Redactions (Doc.
15 66), Defendant's Motion in Limine Regarding Objections From Video Deposition (Doc. 78),
16 and the government's Unopposed Motion for Expedited Ruling Without Hearing on
17 Government's Motion in Limine For Ruling on Objections from Video Deposition (Doc. 83).
18 The government requests the Court rule on its Motion in Limine for Ruling on Objections
19 from Video Deposition no later than October 23, 2023.

20 On October 5, 2023, Defendant Nicole Shermaine Martinez ("Martinez") filed a
21 Motion to Continue Motion in Limine Deadline (Doc. 65) in which she requested an
22 extension of ten (10) days for the deadline to submit motions in limine and for submitting
23 objections to the video deposition obtained in the case. The Court granted in part and denied
24 in part, setting a motion deadline of October 17, 2023, by noon, with responses to be filed
25 by October 20, 2023, at noon. Martinez has filed a Motion in Limine Regarding Objections
26 from Video Deposition (Doc. 78). The Court, therefore, will rule on the objections from the
27 video deposition.

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1 *Unopposed Motion for Expedited Ruling Without Hearing on Government's Motion in
2 Limine For Ruling on Objections from Video Deposition (Doc. 83)*

3 The government needing sufficient time to prepare the video deposition for
4 presentation at trial, the Court will grant the request and rules herein on the objections to the
5 video deposition. However, the Court advises the parties this ruling is contingent upon the
6 Court's ruling on the government's Motion in Limine to Admit Video Recorded Witness
7 Testimony (Doc. 76), for which argument will be heard on October 30, 2023.

8 *Government's Motion in Limine for Ruling on Objections from Video Deposition and
9 Government's Additional Proposed Redactions (Doc. 66) and Defendant's Motion in Limine
10 Regarding Objections from Video Deposition (Doc. 78)*

11 RT 14:7-21

12 Martinez withdraws this objection. However, the Court notes the objection extends
13 through RT 14:23. The Court overrules this objection.

14 RT 15:25–17:10

15 The defense objects based on hearsay as to instructions Material Witness Jesus
16 Manuel Vazquez-De Jesus ("Jesus") was given by other persons. This statement is not being
17 offered for the truth of the matter asserted but to show the effect on the material witness.
18 Further, as an "order" or "directives," they are admissible under Fed.R.Evid. 801(c) as
19 circumstantial evidence of state of mind. *United States v. Garcia-Villanueva*, 855 F.2d 863
20 (9th Cir. 1988). This objection is overruled.

21 RT 15:25-17:1

22 Martinez objects to the describing of hand signals as speculative. The transcript
23 states:

24 Q. Did the driver say anything to you?

25 A. No, just signals.

26 Q. What do you mean by that?

27 THE INTERPRETER: If you can -- if you can see, he's doing his hand like
28 this, down.

1 BY MS. MELTON:

2 Q. Could you please explain in words what the signal was?

3 MS. RODRIGUEZ-MADERA: Objection; that calls for speculation.

4 BY MS. MELTON:

5 Q. Could you please explain the signal that you saw?

6 THE INTERPRETER: Could we ask him to stand up, so you could see in the
7 recording?

8 MS. MELTON: Sure. Go ahead.

9 BY MS. MELTON:

10 Q. But please explain it in words.

11 A. Like this, for going down.

12 MS. RODRIGUEZ-MADERA: I can't see. I don't know what that's called,
13 but it's -- it's -- the view is unhelpful.

14 BY MS. MELTON:

15 Q. What did you understand the driver's signal to mean?

16 A. For me to crouch down.

17 Q. And was that signal made with her hands?

18 THE INTERPRETER: Her -- was --

19 Q. Was that signal made with the driver's hands?

20 A. Yes.

21 DEFENSE COUNSEL: And, again, I just want to note for the record that his answer,
22 it's -- again, it just calls for speculation.

23 Q: His saying what he observed?

24 DEFENSE COUNSEL: Not what he observed, what he thought it meant, which was
25 the previous question. I'm sorry.

26 RT 15:25-17:11. The question at RT 16:6-7 ("Could you please explain in words what the
27 signal was?") asked the witness to explain what the signal was after the witness had
28 apparently attempted to show the signal as stated by the interpreter. In context, this was not
asking the witness to speculate as to the meaning of the signal, just to describe the signal.

1 Further, the subsequent questioning inquires into what the witness understood the signal to
2 mean, not what the witness thought the girl who was signaling intended the signal to mean.
3 These questions and answers are not speculative and the Court overrules the objection.

4 RT 15:7-8; 19:3-7 and RT 22:17-21

5 The government agrees to redact these portions of the transcript; the defense does not
6 opposes these redactions. The objections are moot.

7 RT 24:1-13

8 The government objected based on relevance to questioning as to whether officers
9 gave the witness any warnings prior to asking questions. The defense does not oppose the
10 redaction. The objection is moot.

11 RT 29:22-30:4

12 The government agrees to redact these portions of the transcript; Martinez does not
13 opposes these redactions. The objection is moot.

14 RT 31:13-23

15 The government agrees that, because defense counsel clarified the question, no further
16 action is required. The defense does not oppose the redaction. The objection is moot.

17 RT 32:14-17

18 The government agrees to redact its objection; the defense does not oppose the
19 redaction. The objection is moot.

20 RT 33:10-34:4

21 Martinez withdraws her objection to the repetitive nature of the cross-examination to
22 the direct examination. The objection is moot.

23 RT 35:11-14 and RT 35:16-20

24 The government agrees to redact these portions of the transcript and the defense does
25 not oppose the redactions. These objections are moot.

26 Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED:

27 1. The government's Unopposed Motion for Expedited Ruling Without Hearing on

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1 Government's Motion in Limine For Ruling on Objections from Video Deposition (Doc. 83)
2 is GRANTED.

3 2. The government's Motion in Limine for Ruling on Objections from Video
4 Deposition and Government's Additional Proposed Redactions (Doc. 66) and Defendant's
5 Motion in Limine Regarding Objections From Video Deposition (Doc. 78) are GRANTED
6 IN PART AND DENIED IN PART as discussed herein.

7 3. The following objections are overruled: RT 14:7-23, RT 15:25-17:10, RT
8 15:25-17:1.

9 4. The Court accepts the parties' agreements as to specified redactions and declines
10 to rule on those objections as moot.

11 5. The government shall prepare the material witness video deposition for trial
12 consistent with this Order.

13 DATED this 20th day of October, 2023.

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16 Cindy K. Jorgenson
17 United States District Judge

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